

## **DRAFT Minutes of Meeting April 15, 2009**

**Warren Senior Center**

**In Attendance: Evelyn Wheeler, Edna Kent, Henry Duquette, Judith Fardig, Sally Small, James Spears, Letty Champion, Peggie Malcolm, Bruce MacGunnigle, Carolyn Crist- Schwab, Paul Robinson, David Kirchner, Lee Teverow**

**Excused Absences: Robert Butler**

**Meeting called to order at 6:55 pm by Chairwoman Wheeler**

**Chairwoman Wheeler announced that the meeting would be filmed by someone making a documentary and asked if there were any objections – no objections.**

**Next Commission Meeting will be held June 17th at 6:45pm at the Exeter Veterans Cemetery, Administration Office.**

**Introduction of Minutes November 19, 2008**

**Lee Teverow requested that the minutes be modified to reflect that the Rules and**

**Regulations are in DRAFT form**

**Motion to accept minutes as amended by Bruce MacGunnigle, with a second by**

**Judith Fardig**

**12 – 0 to accept minutes as amended**

**Paul Robinson discussed his concerns that the Chairwoman had written letters to the DOT in response to their requests for input regarding construction projects in Cumberland, and that the letters had been drafted without consensus of the other members, and went beyond the Commission's scope and purpose. It was agreed that the Commission is currently limited statutorily to advise only the General Assembly, so should refer such requestors to the City or Town.**

**Lee Teverow made a motion to form a subcommittee to clarify the purpose of the**

**Commission, who the Commission reports to, who the Commission advises, and**

**on what, with a second by Peggie Malcolm**

**13 – 0 to form a subcommittee**

**Subcommittee members: Peggie Malcolm, Jim Spears, Henry Duquette, Paul**

**Robinson and Lee Teverow**

**Kenneth Rahn provided an update on the cemetery database, and it was noted that he will work on a maiden name index, and entering the stone type information as well. Discussion regarding who owns and is responsible for maintaining the database, and that there needs to be a formal and official process. Henry Duquette agreed to draft an outline of questions and proposals for next meeting.**

**Henry Duquette discussed that Burrville will be conducting**

workshops for property owners whose property abuts cemeteries, including information on adoption, caring for cemeteries, legal issues, and rights of way. He requested information on Rights of Way, and was referred to CRMC and RI General Law.

Evelyn discussed S0010/H5231 which increases the fine to \$5000 for damage to a soldiers and sailors tomb, monument, or gravestone.

Sally Small reported that the RI DAR chapter continues to work on a project of locating and photographing pictures of the original DAR members; Barrington Cemetery Commission is continuing their photographic inventory project.

Evelyn Wheeler reported that the GIS project has 830 locations recorded, with 61 confirmed. She is coordinating the project and is looking for volunteers.

Edna Kent reported that Ponagansett High School has 16 gravestones on their property that need to be located; Need volunteers with a chainsaw to clear tree growth; Eagle Scout is going to clean the Pain-Martin cemetery.

DOT is requesting the Commission's input on a project in Little Compton which James Spears didn't get a chance to take a look at. Commission members agreed that it's not within their scope.

Developer for a Hopkington truck stop is hiring PAL to do a survey.

## **Earth Day Events**

- 1. Judy Fardig: North Burial Ground**
- 2. Pegée Malcolm: Brayton Cemetery 4/25 and 4/26**
- 3. Henry Duquette: 3 cemeteries on 4/18**
- 4. Evelyn Wheeler: Knightsville Cemetery (continued)**

**Lee Teverow reported that a Brown professor is looking for information on slave cemeteries in RI – Newport, North Burial Ground, North Main Street**

**Evelyn Wheeler reported that the documentation project for Locust Grove Cemetery in Providence is up to the “M’s”.**

**Pegée Malcolm reported that the monuments were laid today for the Route 37 reburial project, and that landscaping will be done.**

**Chairwoman Wheeler reviewed the RIGL amendments that were previously distributed to Commission members and will be introduced soon. Lee Teverow requested that the full text of the laws, as well as an up-to-date copy of the amended sections be sent to everyone prior to approval.**

**Bruce MacGunnigle made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with a second by Pegée Malcolm. Meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm.**

**Respectfully submitted by Emily Corbett, Secretary**